

PRESS RELEASE

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KEEPERS OF THE WAY: MONUMENTS OF THE SOUTHWEST January 11 - March 10, 1991

Twenty photographs of Southwestern landscape taken by Clevelander Nicholas Hlobeczy will be on view in The Cleveland Museum of Art's Photography Gallery 105 from January 11 through March 10, 1991. Hlobeczy made these gelatin silver prints during the summer of 1990, shortly after his retirement from The Cleveland Museum of Art, where he had worked for 23 years as the Museum photographer.

Hlobeczy traveled to the Southwest United States, to the area where the four corners of Arizona, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico meet--near where he began his career, taking pictures with the influential photographer Minor White. Using a 5- x 7-inch view camera, he recorded the beauty and drama of the landscape, with its windswept, eroded bluffs and cliffs, its ancient ruins and sites sacred to the region's native Americans. Beautifully printed, with a remarkable tonal range, the photographs exhibit Hlobeczy's extraordinary sensitivity to forms, textures, and light and shadow patterns. His closeups of rocks and cliff faces--some embellished with pictographs made by early native inhabitants--are carefully framed, creating, in some instances, complex, abstract compositions. In a few photographs he has reinforced the effects of natural light through solarization and by printing only the negative image.

Tom Hinson, the Museum's curator of contemporary art, organized the exhibition. He explains that the untitled photographs, which are meant to be viewed as a whole, reflect the photographer's long interest in relationships between man and nature. Hlobeczy ponders those relationships in a poem he has written, "Keepers of the Way," which is included in the exhibition.